

## Message Text

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55

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

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R 130816Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 679

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19712

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE FROM UDORN 12 JULY  
76 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 5515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: LOCAL THAI OFFICIALS CALM ABOUT REPORTS OF LAO  
MILITARY BUILD-UP ALONG BORDER

1. ON JULY 9 CONSULATE POLITICAL ASSISTANT PUT THE QUESTION  
OF A BUILD-UP OF LAO FORCES ALONG THE NORTHEASTERN BORDER OF  
THAILAND TO PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN NONG KHAI. ACKNOWLEDGING  
THE BUILD-UP, OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTE THE HEIGHTENED SECURITY  
MEASURES IN THE BORDER AREA TO EFFORTS BY LAO AUTHORITIES TO  
CRACK DOWN ON RIGHTIST OPPOSITION GROUPS. THERE IS LITTLE  
INDICATION OF CONCERN THAT THESE MOVES MAY BE DIRECTED AGAINST  
THAILAND.

2. PROVINCIAL DEFENSE OFFICER CONFIRMS PRESS REPORTS THAT PL  
TROOPS HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO STRONGER POSITIONS ALONG THE  
THAI BORDER BUT VIEWS THE REINFORCEMENT AS A MOVE TO CURB  
THE CONTINUING OPPOSITION OF RIGHTIST GROUPS WITHIN LAOS.  
COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY HE DID NOT ADDRESS THE POSSIBILITY  
THAT BY REINFORCING THEIR BORDER, THE LAO HOPE TO CUT DOWN  
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ON SUPPORT THESE RESISTANCE GROUPS MAY BE RECEIVING FROM

COMPATRIOTS IN THAILAND. THERE HAVE LONG BEEN INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE TWENTY THOUSAND REFUGEES IN NONG KHAI PROVINCE ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING RIGHTIST FORCES IN LAOS.

3. DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER IN PHON PHISAI (NONG KHAI PROVINCE) SAID THAT IN AN ASSOCIATED MOVE, LAO AUTHORITIES HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR SYSTEM OF ROADBLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS IN THE BORDER AREA.

4. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT OFFICIALS ARE INTERPRETING THE REINFORCEMENT AS A CHALLENGE TO THAILAND OR THAT MILITARY UNITS ON THIS SIDE OF THE MEKONG ARE BEING READIED FOR A COUNTER BUILD-UP. HENDRICKSON

UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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